

Independent Review of Home Education

Rationale

Vulnerable children who are being home educated may pose an increased concern in terms of their safety, wellbeing and education. The independent review is seeking specific evidence on:

- i) the **prevalence** of 'vulnerable' children in your current EHE caseload;
- ii) the **type** of vulnerability you have encountered in the past and / or are experiencing currently.

Your **views** as to what measures could be taken to improve the safety, wellbeing and education of these children are also sought.

In relation to (i) above:

1. What proportion of your current EHE caseload is known to Social Care in the following capacities? Please include open and closed cases.

Type	Number	% of caseload
Section 17 enquiry ¹		
Section 47 enquiry ²		
Section 37 (care orders)		
Children who are or have been subject to child protection plan (or previously on the child protection register)		
Other (please specify)		
We monitor whether or not the child is receiving a suitable education and if we have any concerns that this is not the case we would pass our concerns to Children Missing Education for follow up. Therefore although this information would be held within other departments within the LA the EHE team currently are not in receipt of it		
Total <u>number of children</u>		

2. What proportion of your current caseload do you estimate have safeguarding implications?

	Number	% of caseload
Total <u>number of children</u>		
Parent with mental health issues		
Child with mental health issues		

¹ **Do not** include children who are disabled where there is no concern about parenting or quality of EHE.

² **Do not** include cases that did not lead to further action.

Parent with substance misuse issues		
Domestic violence		
Child abuse or neglect (current or previous)		
Other family circumstances		
Concerns but cannot determine due to inability to see the child		
Other (please describe)		
Concerns about parental ability / capacity to undertake home education (not covered above). Please specify reason:		
Unable to answer this on behalf of other departments within the LA		

3. Request for case studies

In relation to (ii) above, please provide two or three anonymised case studies (more if you wish) describing cases where you have specific safeguarding concerns. Within your description please provide information detailing your specific concerns including any issues around obtaining relevant information about the child from the parent or child (including difficulties in gaining access to the child). Your **views** as to what measures could be taken to improve the safety, wellbeing and education of these children are also invited.

Please find attached .

1) Concerns about the safeguarding of the child

2) Long standing concerns by multiple agencies as to the safeguarding of all children.

**Dad could be, and frequently was very aggressive with LA officials and very rarely allowed children concerned to be present at meetings
Currently CAFCAS are involved to ensure safeguarding of children.
It is understood that the older children both of school age are now attending school.**

Suggested measures

- **Information on families where concerns exist , passed more freely between agencies including passport/border controls would enable easier tracking**
- **It is envisaged that Contact point may help here for most cases**
- **Tighten controls on Parents who choose to Home educate by making registration a requirement**

- **Refer to previous Inquiry document**

Additional information

4. In your estimation, what proportion of your current caseload is not receiving any education?

59 cases of a total of 454 currently referred to CME as no education is taking place (approx 12.9%)

5. In your estimation, what proportion are home educating to avoid prosecution for attendance issues?

Currently have 40 known refusers of 454 cases (approx 11%)

6. What proportion of EHE youngsters became NEET (please use the latest data you have available and note the timeframe in your response).

This information is held by the LA but EHE team do not have input beyond 16 yrs